



THE OFFICIAL COCA-COLA NSL

SOCCER

YEARBOOK

1991-92

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*You Can't Beat
The Feeling!*

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KICK OFF

Greetings soccer fans!

And welcome to the 1991/92 season! Everyone who has followed the NSL for the past few years has come to expect that every season will be better and more exciting than the previous one — and you certainly won't be disappointed this season.

First and foremost, the NSL has a tremendous new sponsor in Coca-Cola. The NSL is truly delighted to



welcome Coca-Cola to the Australian soccer scene and looks forward to a rewarding partnership. Coca-Cola is renowned for its commitment to young people and the resources it puts back into the community for their development.

Supporters will see a growing involvement by Coca-Cola in all areas of Australian soccer over the next few years, building up to "Australia 1993", the World Youth Championship for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup to be hosted by our nation and supported by Coca-Cola International.

What else is new for 91/92? Well, in the first season of the restructured NSL, we are pleased to welcome three new teams: Brisbane United, Newcastle Breakers and West Adelaide. These teams have met the tough requirements for admission to our national league and we wish them the best in their first season.

These new teams also embody one of the NSL's objectives for the coming season: to modify all team names to reflect the district they represent. This move, recommended by the Bradley Report, is important in our overall aim to penetrate further into the mainstream of Australian sport.

You will also notice that your Yearbook is better than ever, packed with more information and photographs, representing great value-for-money.

Other improvements this season will be seen in the areas of merchandising, promotions and the Top Five Series, being contested for the first time for The Australian Coca-Cola Cup.

And if you think all that sounds exciting, wait until you see what we have planned for the 1992/93 season!

I want to express the NSL's most sincere thanks to the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and Quit, which has been Australian soccer's major supporter for the past three years. Our sport is indebted to Quit.

We are delighted that Quit will continue to support our code and that the ASF, Quit and Coca-Cola can continue to pursue our mutual goal of developing young Australians.

In launching the new season, I also wish to acknowledge the contributions of the ASF staff, the NSL clubs, the State Federations and our amateur affiliates for the restructuring and ongoing development of our sport. The contributions of so many individuals is helping make soccer ever more appealing to those hundreds of thousands of Australians who enjoy it. The Development Fee paid by all registered players has been put to work to tremendous effect this year, making possible the outstanding success of our young teams: the Under 20s in Portugal and the Under 17s in Italy.

Here's to an excellent 1991/92 season in the Coca-Cola National Soccer League...

*John Constantine, OAM
Chairman,
Australian Soccer Federation*





That winning feeling: Thirteen other teams will be out to emulate Souths this year.

Here we go, here we go, here we go...

As the 1991-92 NSL season gets ready to kick off, MICHAEL COCKERILL of The Sydney Morning Herald profiles all the teams and their respective dreams...

THREE NEW clubs, no pressures of relegation and a commitment to exact higher standards off the field have helped to provide a fresh wave of optimism within soccer circles as the 1991-92 National Soccer League season kicks off. With summer soccer already confirmed as an outstanding success, the restructuring of the NSL was seen as the next, vital step towards regaining soccer's lost credibility. In moves largely inspired by the Bradley Report, the end result has been the re-admission of clubs from Brisbane and Newcastle as well as a second team from Adelaide joining the league. The geographical spread of the Coca-Cola NSL, therefore, has increased as the competition moves away from its Sydney-Melbourne axis to embrace a more national theme.

So what then can we expect from the new product? On the field, we can look forward to a continuing progression towards a slower, more skilful style of play. Teams such as Adelaide City and Parramatta Melita proved last season that this approach can be successful, and the indications are that most NSL coaches have accepted the wisdom of this trend: on hot summer nights it's simply not feasible to play a frenetic 100mph type of game. Off the pitch, the signs are also encouraging. A more professional, co-ordinated marketing campaign is being organised to lift the profile of club soccer, while improvements to ground facilities are taking place at Brisbane, Newcastle, Adelaide, Marconi, Melbourne Croatia, Sydney Croatia and South Melbourne. Clubs have also been told to appoint staff to improve the development and administrative areas of the game.

With three years before the next intake of clubs is anticipated, the Coca Cola NSL now has a rare level of continuity. In that time, genuine improvements at every level are expected. In the meantime, however, the fans are more concerned about what will happen this season.

So, opposite is a guide to each of those team's chances in 1991-92.

SOUTH MELBOURNE

At the time of writing, South Melbourne Hellas had made only one notable acquisition — attacking midfielder/striker Gary Hasler from relegated Sunshine — so it will basically be using the same team to defend its hard-won title. Good news for the fans is that the mighty Magyar, Ferenc Puskas, has agreed to leave his beloved home on the Costa de Sol behind for another summer in Australia. There are many who criticise Puskas for his relaxed training methods, but nobody can argue with his results or the much-needed stature he brings to the NSL. Even Puskas, however, will find it a big task to keep the title at Middle Park.

MELBOURNE CROATIA

A pre-season full of the predictable turmoil has not helped the club's chances of going one better than its runners-up position of last season. Indeed, for much of the winter it seems that the club was more concerned with politics than football. Despite this, the club has had reasonable preparation under caretaker coach George Hannah, before Ken Murphy was appointed, and still has one of the best balanced, most experienced squads in the NSL. After a slow start, it should again offer a major challenge.

ADELAIDE CITY

The loss of Aurelio Vidmar will be keenly felt, but the \$250,000 transfer fee has given the club unprecedented spending power. At press time, this money had been used on only one player: tricky wide midfielder Zoran Ilic from St George. But Adelaide City has one of the best youth schemes in the country and has plenty of exciting youngsters like Joe Barbaro and Carlo Talladira to fill the breach.

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

Another off-season of great activity at Bossley Park has seen club stalwarts such as Robbie Wheatley and Peter Katholos off-loaded, outstanding youngster Paul Okon sold overseas, and newcomers such as Milan Blagojevic and Gus Cerro brought in to add a new dimension to Marconi's play. Coach Bert Mariani has the tricky task of reshaping his team while keeping the club's demanding supporters happy at the same time. He may just be able to do it.

PRESTON

The feeling last season was that this highly-talented team did not enjoy the restrictions placed upon it by coach John Gardiner. In that case, it can

expect more of the same. Potential match-winners like Kris Trajanovski and Warren Spink need better service than they got last season, or they will again wither on the vine. Hard to see much improvement.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

The chequebook has been open at Austral Park during the winter, with the Breakers reportedly offering sky-high incentives to attract tried and tested NSL players to the Hunter Valley. The pot of gold has lured, among others, Andrew Koczka, Dominic Longo and NZ international Noel Barkley to the club, but it will not be an easy introduction. Good home support will be a help, while the progress off the field suggests the club will be a force down the track. But not straight away.

BRISBANE UNITED

Of the three new clubs, the Queenslander chose to adopt the lowest profile as it prepared for the NSL. There are many difficult tasks facing this brand-new club, among them limited financial resources, problems in attracting southern players to the north, and divided loyalties among the local clubs who are supposed to be supporting the NSL operation. Experienced NSL players Alan Hunter and Stuart Stevenson, NZ internationals Carl Jorgensen and Danny Halligan and English import Steven Bullock are all solid buys, but hardly spectacular. Brisbane will struggle in its debut season.

APIA-LEICHHARDT

The club which many had expected to be axed from the league has lived to fight another day. Apia has kept enough of the players from last season's squad to suggest that it will be competitive, but its morale is harder to predict. It is not an easy time for the club, and this may be reflected on the pitch. Fighters like Darren Stewart and Brian Ellem will ensure that there will be no easy games for any of Apia-Leichhardt's opponents.

PARRAMATTA MELITA

A season of transition is likely following the loss of Gus Cerro, striker Greg Brown and defender Alan Hunter, and the retirement of Washington Gonzales. The Eagles were in many ways the team of the season last year, but will find it hard to match those achievements in the 1991-92 season. Newcomers such as Robbie Wheatley, Osvaldo El Ali and Klaus Okon are all handy players, so the team will remain highly competitive. Parramatta Melita mightn't be favourites for the title, but don't bet against another Cup run.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Olympic never looked like retaining its title last season, and is now poised to make a major change to its style of play. The club has bought shrewdly while reducing the size of the NSL's biggest squad at the same time. Midfielder Katholos and striker Tim Bredbury may prove to be the best buys of the season. For all this, the team may find it hard to match the expectations of its demanding supporters.

SYDNEY CROATIA

Sydney Croatia may just prove to be the dark horses this season as a result of the demanding standards set by new coach Mladen Vrankovic. The two new arrivals from Rijeka, Fadaj Murici and Miro Stipic, come with good recommendations, but only time will tell how they adjust. However, in goalkeeper Mark Bosnich they have the player to provide the platform for a winning season. Striker Tony Krslovic can again be expected to provide the goals, while all reports indicate that winger Manis Lamond is fitter and keener than he has ever been.

WOLLONGONG CITY

Major changes in the boardroom during the off-season may see the Wolves take a more ambitious stance this season. The club has made the right choice in sticking with David Ratcliffe as coach, but he has again been hampered by lack of funds in the transfer market. The addition of experienced heads like Mike O'Shea and Kevin Hagan will add depth to the squad, but the team still lacks a much-needed match-winner.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

Severe financial problems have restricted Heidelberg United's recruiting program, but the indications are that it will at least play a more attractive style of football this season. It must also be hoped that the playing surface at Olympic Village will be substantially better, or it may not matter which type of game it chooses to play. Unfortunately for the Bergers' fans, it looks like there's another season of toil ahead.

WEST ADELAIDE

The last time West Adelaide was in the NSL, it lasted one season. It may be grateful that relegation is no longer in force this year. A brave choice in naming former player Nick Pantsaras as coach deserves some success. But with most of the team having only State League experience, it may end up with the wooden spoon.



Ernie Tapai demonstrates how good it feels to score in the final five series.



South Melbourne fans are glad to see Ferenc Puskas back at the helm again.



Which teams will catch her eye come Grand Final day at the end of 91/92?

'Lucky' Souths aim for back-to-back titles

After an Houdini-like escape in last year's Grand Final, South Melbourne has a point to make this season

PAUL WADE may have played 42 full internationals for Australia, won national championships and NSL Cup finals, but there is one day he will remember above all else — the day that South Melbourne Hellas won last season's grand final.

It is not that Wade, a fine ambassador for the game and one of our proudest Socceroo captains, does not appreciate all the high moments of his distinguished career. Rather, it was the drama, tension and pure adrenalin which characterised Souths' nail-biting victory over Melbourne Croatia which he will never forget. "I've been stopped at service stations and in shops and people still want to talk about the game," he says. "I'll never forget it. I was just so glad to be part of it, even if I lost a few hairs along the way."

Few in the bumper crowd of more

than 21,000 which jam-packed Olympic Park will forget that memorable autumn afternoon either. The title-decider between Victoria's biggest clubs was always likely to produce a tremendous atmosphere, and while the game itself was hardly a classic, the sting in the tail provided by the penalty shoot-out brought the excitement to fever pitch.

Melbourne Croatia, as if it needs reminding, had the game in its keeping on two occasions only to see Souths fight back from the dead. With less than a minute left of normal time, and holding a 1-0 lead, some wayward marking in the Melbourne Croatia defence allowed Paul Trimboli to slip a gem of a pass through to Joe Palatsides who did the rest from close range. And after the scores remained the same throughout extra time,

Melbourne Croatia had two chances to win the game from the spot after three South Melbourne players let the pressure get to them and missed their penalties.

Wade takes up the story: "I remember Mickey P (Petersen) coming back to the centre circle after he had missed his penalty: he just lay down with his hands over his eyes wishing the ground would swallow him up. When they missed the next kick, I noticed he had opened his eyes and was up on his elbows. And when they missed the one after that, he was sitting up, staring straight ahead. You could see the way he lifted after he realised we were back in the game."

Incredibly, Souths crawled back from the brink, and when a nervous, clearly reluctant Ivan Kelic blasted his shot over the crossbar, the resurrection was complete. Wade, who had already won a previous NSL title with Brunswick Juventus, jumped into a pile of his teammates and screamed for joy.

The celebrations back at Middle Park clubrooms were predictably riotous, and the talk was of how a new era for this proud old club had begun. And on the eve of the new season, the theme remains the same.

"We're talking back-to-back titles," says Wade. "We know we had our fair share of luck last season and, in some

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ways, we pinched the grand final; so we're dead keen to prove that we're worthy champions. We are still a fairly young side, so there's no reason why we can't stay at the top for a few years yet. Nobody is going to tell me I should be retiring, that's for sure."

The message off the field is now even more encouraging. Dynamic club president, George Vassilopoulos, finally delivered the goods which the supporters had been yearning for when he received the green light from South Melbourne council last June for a redevelopment program at Middle Park. After years of entrenched opposition from local residents, the council finally relented to the club's request to install television-standard floodlighting, and a new dressing shed and press complex on the eastern side of the ground.

"This is better than winning the championship," Vassilopoulos said at the time. Certainly, the much-needed modernisation of Middle Park will allow South Melbourne to plan confidently for the future, with the NSL now insisting on higher standards of



South Melbourne Hellas celebrates its victory: now for two on the trot?

Souths do the double

South Melbourne pulled off a rare double last season when its youth league side added to the trophy shelf at Middle Park by carrying off the national under-19 title.

The Grand Final, played between the champions of the north and south divisions of the NYL, went to a replay at Marconi Stadium after a 2-2 draw in the first tie.

Never-say-die Souths scored twice in the final eight minutes, with Con Boutsianis heading home the winner in the 90th minute, to beat Sydney Olympic 3-2.

Neither of the grand finalists won its division: Sydney Croatia topped the table in the northern zone while Adelaide City were minor premiers of the southern division.

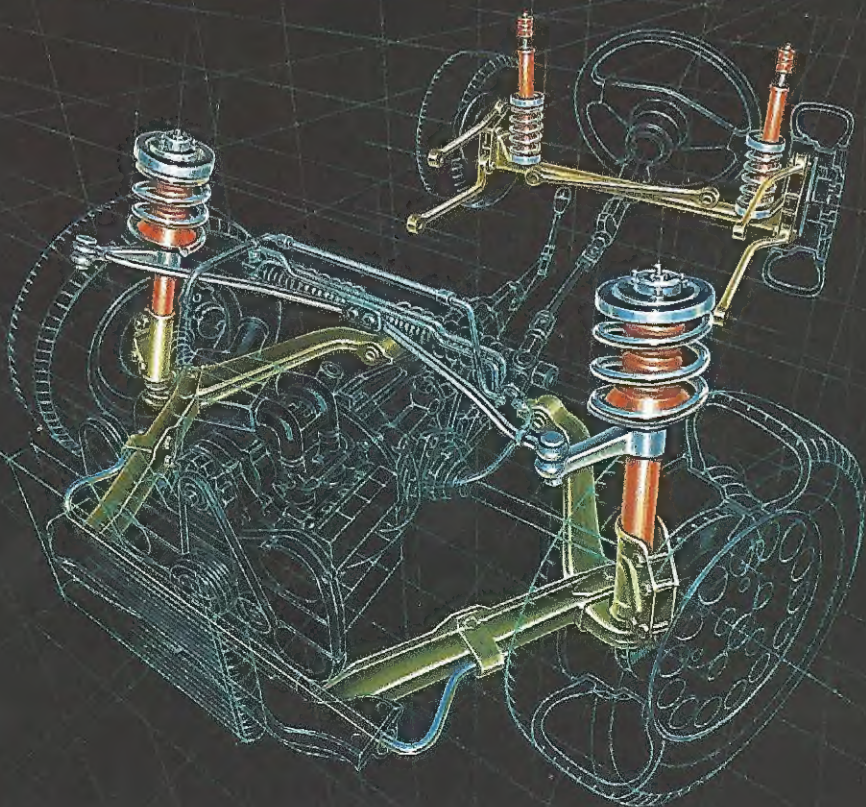
stadium facilities in the wake of the Bradley Report. The jigsaw, then, seems to be coming together at just the right time. With the popular Ferenc Puskas agreeing to return for a third season as coach, and with the depth of the first team squad improved by the addition of attacking midfielder Gary Hasler from relegated Sunshine, the portents on the pitch are looking good.

A three-week tour to Greece during July, when

Souths may have struggled for results (a 1-1 draw with PAOK Salonika and a 5-1 loss to Panathinaikos) but were at least able to train as professionals (twice a day), helped the team to prepare mentally and physically for the demands of defending its title.

"I guess we're now going to find out how Marconi have been feeling," Wade says. Strength of character, however, is what made the difference last May, and with fighters like Wade, Mehmet Durakovic and Steve Blair still there to complement the skills of Paul Trimboli and Mike Petersen, there is no reason why Souths will not be there or thereabouts again this season.

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GM 0139 SLY

Cup sees Eagles soar

Parramatta Melita loves the NSL Cup to death, reports Michael Cockerill; soon the nation's minnows might too

TRY TELLING the fans and officials of Parramatta Melita that the NSL Cup is a secondary competition. The fact is, the hard-working, somewhat unfashionable club from Sydney's west loves the Cup to death.

The NSL Cup, in its various guises, has been around as long as the national league itself, and in that time it has proven to be a godsend for smaller clubs like the Eagles.

While the championship has often been the domain of the big outfits like South Melbourne, Adelaide City, Marconi-Fairfield, Sydney Olympic and the now-defunct Sydney City, the Cup has provided incentive for the rest.

Clubs such as Brisbane City, Brisbane Lions, Newcastle Rosebuds, Sydney Croatia and now Parramatta Melita have all won their only NSL honours in the Cup competition, and they all treasure the trophy for that very reason.

You just have to cast your mind back to last April to appreciate that the NSL Cup, despite its mixed reputation, has the capacity to engender the same sort of passion and excitement as a grand

final. Almost 7,000 noisy, colourful fans descended on Marconi Stadium to see Parramatta Melita take on Melbourne club Preston in the Cup final. And, even though they were forced to wait until the dying seconds before striker Greg Brown grabbed the decisive goal, the atmosphere remained electric throughout a memorable afternoon.

Brown and his teammates were mobbed by ecstatic Eagles' fans straight after the final whistle, and the

celebrations back at South Granville lasted well into the night. Melita president Sam Vella, his voice cracking with emotion, announced it to be the club's finest hour — and a signal to the rest of the country that the Eagles had come of age.

As silverware goes, certainly, the NSL Cup has always been keenly contested. The finals, too, have generally attracted healthy crowds, although not of the same magnitude as for Grand Finals.

Nevertheless, the Cup Final is Australian soccer's other big day of the year, and it will be more so if plans currently on the drawing board are to come to fruition.

The ASF is now seriously considering amalgamating the Dockerty Cup — Victoria's and, indeed, the country's oldest and most prestigious Cup competition — with the NSL Cup, to create a truly nationwide tournament involving numerous State League clubs as well as those from the NSL.

The philosophy is to create an English FA Cup-style competition which has the capacity to excite even the most modest football clubs around the country, and all the fans who support them.

Instead of talking about the famous FA Cup upsets in England, we may in future be able to wax lyrical about the exploits of such minnows as Salisbury United, Taringa Rovers, North Perth Croatia and White Eagles — names which appear on the Pools coupons but have little impact anywhere else.

Certainly, the sport in this country needs a David versus Goliath tradition, and the Cup has all the potential to deliver it.

For this season, however, we will have to wait. The NSL Cup will again be contested by the 14 league clubs, with the final due to be played before the end of the home-and-away rounds in early April. As from the 1992-93 season, however, it is envisaged that the rebirth of the Dockerty Cup as a nationwide competition will be complete, and semi-pro clubs from all states will be ready to challenge the big guns of the National Soccer League.

In the meantime, the draw for the first round of the 1991-92 NSL Cup has been released, and is highlighted by the South Australian derby between Adelaide City and West Adelaide.

The draw is: October 30: Adelaide City v West Adelaide, Hindmarsh Stadium (8pm); Melbourne Croatia v Heidelberg United (8pm), South Melbourne v Preston (6pm), Olympic Park (double-header); Wollongong City v Sydney Olympic, Brandon Park (7.30pm). November 6: Brisbane United v Apia-Leichhardt, Perry Park (7.30pm); Parramatta Melita v Sydney Croatia, venue to be announced (7.30pm); Newcastle BHP Breakers v Marconi, Austral Park (7.30pm).

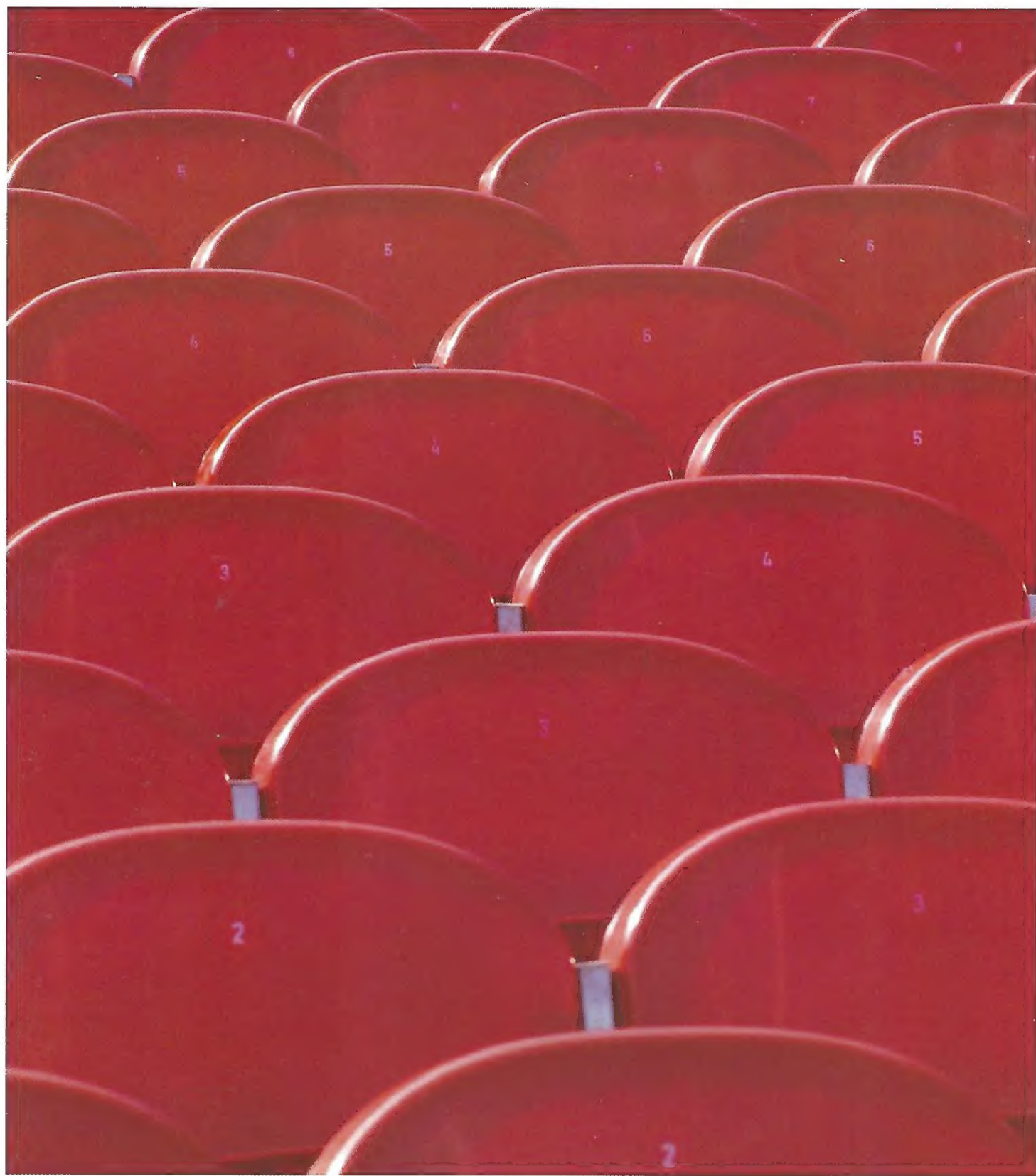
NSL Cup: The roll call

1977: Brisbane City
1978: Brisbane City
1979: Adelaide City
1980: Marconi-Fairfield
1981: Brisbane Lions
1982: Apia-Leichhardt
1983: Sydney Olympic
1984: Newcastle Rosebuds
1985: Sydney Olympic
1986: Sydney City
1987: Sydney Croatia
1988: Apia-Leichhardt
1989: Adelaide City
1990: South Melbourne
1991: Parramatta Melita

Below: Melita Eagles' fans celebrate.



Round 1	Adelaide City	2.	St George BSC	0
	South Melbourne	2	Heidelberg Utd	0
	Melbourne Croatia	0	Sunshine George Cross	1
	Wollongong City	1	Wollongong Macedonia	0
	Marconi-Fairfield	1	Sydney Croatia	0
	Sydney Olympic	1	Apia Leichhardt	2
Round 2	Melita Eagles	2	Adelaide City	1
	South Melbourne	2	Sunshine George Cross	0
	Wollongong City	1	Apia Leichhardt	2
	Marconi-Fairfield	0	Preston	1
Semi-finals	Melita Eagles	3	South Melbourne	1
	Apia Leichhardt	1	Preston	2
Final	Melita Eagles	1	Preston	0



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Heroes hit the top ten

*The Young Socceroos did us all proud in Portugal, writes
SCOTT COOMBER - now the push is on for 1993*

OUR YOUNG Socceroo heroes have skipped into the top 10 world youth rankings following their stunning display at the 1991 World Youth Cup in Portugal.

Their bronze medal — the highest prize captured by any Australian side at international level — has booted them from 12th to ninth place on the all-time international youth table.

The great Brazilians, despite losing to the hosts in the final, lead the point-score ahead of the USSR and Argentina. But it was the Australians who stole the show from the glamorous South Americans and classy Europeans in Portugal.

They looked every bit a world force throughout the championship: confident, disciplined, fit and just as skilful as their supposed superiors.

Reaching the semi-final to play Portugal in front of 120,000 fans and a massive worldwide TV audience was an historic moment and a showcase for Australian soccer.

Who could forget the sight of 11 young men, speckled in green and gold, slumping to the turf as the final whistle sounded in the deafening cauldron of Lisbon's Estadio da Luz?

The hosts had secured a 1-0 victory and our World Cup dream was over. But, for once, it hadn't been just a pipe dream.

Captain of the senior Socceroos, Paul Wade, summed up the under-20s' performance when he said, "Our boys have shown great maturity in this

championship. That won't be lost on the scouts who, at an event like this, always have big cheque books to wave about. They like winners, and our blokes have surprised everyone."

Despite losing the consolation play-off for third against the USSR, the young Socceroos came away with more than a bronze medal and a place on the honours board.

They swelled the pride of all the followers of Australian soccer, for too long considered the poor cousin of the football family.

They also proved the value of the Australian Institute of Sport's youth



*Above: coach Les Scheinflug inspires.
Below: proudly wearing their medals.*

soccer program whose ex-students made up most of our representative line-up. It's only a pity that once our boys become men on the international soccer pitch, they have to go overseas to further their careers.

Captain Paul Okon and midfielder Lorenz Kindtner have already been snapped up by Belgian club, FC Brugge, while Adelaide City's Aurelio Vidmar also signed up with a Belgian side, (Kortrijk).

Like 1981 Young Socceroo Frank Farina before them, riches await.

Australian youth teams, mostly under the guidance of coaching supremo Les Scheinflug have been threatening great things in the international arena for a while.

Since the inception of the World Youth Championships in 1979, the Young Socceroos have toiled steadily, only missing out on a qualifying ticket in the 1979 and '89 finals.

As hosts in 1981, the Aussies toppled the Argentinians to qualify for a quarter final berth, only to go down 1-0 to eventual Cup winners, West Germany.

They started with a bang in Mexico '83, accounting for Scotland in the opening game before 110,000 fans at the famed Azteca Stadium.

Then came two disappointing appearances in 1985 in the USSR and 1987 in Chile where they failed to make the quarter-final cuts.

But they set the record straight in Portugal.

Now the focus is on 1993 when Australia hosts the World Youth Cup for the second time.

With many players from the present line-up still eligible for selection in '93, and a swag of talent to plunder in the under-17 Joeys, the Young Socceroos may not only keep Australia at the pinnacle of world soccer, but finally place the code on the map at home.



That was the year that was

With all eyes on the new Coca-Cola National Soccer League season ahead, SCOTT COOMBER takes a month-by-month look back at the main events, scores and highlights of 1990-91

SEPTEMBER

The NSL welcomes Wollongong Macedonia and hails the return of Heidelberg United to a season of summer soccer. Reigning champion Sydney Olympic suffers the pre-season loss of midfielder Gary Phillips, a keen surfer who gives the game away to market surf clothing in Hong Kong and pass his wave-riding knowledge on to budding surf stars in Japan. The Socceroos travel to South Korea where they are handed a sound 1-0 defeat by the locals fresh from Italia '90. Mike Wells, the South Australian federation's general manager, is named the ASF's national coaching director, succeeding Eddie Thomson.

OCTOBER

As clubs prepare for the new season, a record 30 Australians are missing from team sheets, all lured to the big dollar European clubs. St George takes out the pre-season Aerolinas Cup in a 3-2 battle with Melita Eagles. With the league underway, champ Sydney Olympic starts badly with a 2-1 loss to South Melbourne, then is held to a 0-0 draw by the Wollongong Wolves thanks to the services of former Socceroo captain Charlie Yankos in the back-line. Melbourne Croatia goes to an early one point lead on the ladder over South Melbourne and Marconi with the Sydney clubs finding the early going difficult.

NOVEMBER

The game's greatest ever player, Pele, arrives for a promotional tour to launch his book, *The Pele Albums*. He is to kick off the St George-Marconi Fairfield match until he's swamped by autograph-hungry fans and is unable to get through the crush to the centre spot. The Joeys' under-17 squad is named for a warm-up tour of Chile in preparation for the 1991 world championships — it includes seven New South Wales representatives, six from Victoria, two from South Australia and one each from Queensland, the ACT and Western Australia. Marconi

completes a 3-0 rout of St George and, in a replay of the year before's grand final, gives Sydney Olympic a 4-1 lesson to head the standings at the end of the month after early front-runner South Melbourne is beaten 2-0 by Apia Leichhardt.

DECEMBER

John Constantine is duly elected chairman of the new board of commissioners of the ASF while Australia's former Liverpool star, Craig Johnston, is given the post of our youth soccer ambassador. On tour, the Joeys record two impressive victories over Chile, 1-0 and 3-2, with the second match before 40,000 fans in Santiago. FIFA announces a tortuous road for the Socceroos to the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA. The winner from the Oceania region must play two further qualifying matches against sides from North and Central America then South America. Sydney Croatia's Tony Krslovic scores a double in his first match — after a \$35,000 signing from St George — to help his new team to a 2-1 win over Leichhardt. Krslovic adds to his tally with a hat-trick in Croatia's 4-1 defeat of the Wollongong Wolves. Wollongong Macedonia coach, John Fleming, is replaced by Casey de

Bruin. Marconi suffers an embarrassing 6-0 loss to Melbourne Croatia and is ousted from round two of the NSL Cup by Preston. Encouraging attendance news after round 10: crowds total 215,762, up four per cent from the previous season. Melbourne Croatia continues its surge, helped by a 3-0 win over Adelaide City, to lead a topsy turvy top five, with Marconi second and South Melbourne third. Marconi striker David Seal heads the top scorers' list on 12 goals with Krslovic second on 10.

JANUARY

Former Socceroo Tommy McColl passes away: he scored 19 goals in a 20 cap career during the '60s and '70s. The Joeys book a passage to the under-17 world championships with a 1-0 defeat of New Zealand to head the Oceania table. Adelaide City provides the upset of round 16 by accounting for glamour club South Melbourne 4-1, while Marconi starts to put it together, snatching a 1-0 win at Preston, its first at Connor Reserve. Marconi again heads a tightly-packed field with Melbourne Croatia second, South Melbourne third and just two points separating Preston, Adelaide City, Sydney Olympic, Wollongong City and Melita Eagles. Tony Krslovic nets two in Sydney Croatia's 3-4 loss to Melbourne Croatia to give him a 14 goal tally and a one goal lead over Marconi's David Seal and two over Melita's Greg Brown.

FEBRUARY

The Socceroos do little to impress in internationals against Czechoslovakia, losing 1-0 at Olympic Park and 2-0 at Parramatta stadium. National coach Eddie Thomson announces he will travel to Europe to marshal his forces and bring back our overseas' stars for the June international against 1990 World Cup semi-finalists, England. In a double-header at Olympic Park, the

National Soccer League Table 1990/91

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Croatia	26	15	7	4	55	39	37
South Melbourne Hellas	26	14	6	6	45	33	34
Adelaide City	26	12	9	5	40	24	33
Marconi	26	14	3	9	48	33	31
Melita Eagles	26	10	9	7	38	31	29
Sydney Olympic	26	8	13	5	31	25	29
Sydney Croatia	26	8	10	8	27	33	26
Preston Macedonia	26	8	9	9	26	27	25
Wollongong City	26	8	8	10	32	34	24
St George BSC	26	6	10	10	34	41	22
Apia Leichhardt	26	7	7	12	27	28	21
Heidelberg United	26	6	9	11	26	37	21
Sunshine George Cross	26	7	3	16	39	53	17
Wollongong Macedonia	26	3	9	14	23	53	15

NSL Cup show rolls into town with the Melita Eagles advancing to the final with a 3-1 win over South Melbourne while Preston has to go to extra-time to take the honours 2-1 from Apia Leichhardt. Sydney Olympic throws its hat in for a top five spot when returned striker Abbas Saad lands a hat-trick in its 4-2 victory over Heidelberg. The ladder changes every round, but at the end of February, it's Melbourne Croatia who's a game clear of Marconi-Fairfield followed closely by South Melbourne, Adelaide City and Sydney Olympic. Tony Krslovic and David Seal continue to duel for the top scorer spot with 15 goals apiece.

MARCH

FIFA announces it will experiment with new rules for the under-17 world championships, making the midfield an off-side free zone, banning time-wasting back passes to the goalkeeper and limiting a goalie's possession to six seconds. At the Sydney Football Stadium, the Young Socceroos qualify for the 1991 World Youth Championships with a 2-1 win over Israel, following a 1-0 loss in the first leg. The Australians are drawn with seeded USSR, Egypt and Trinidad and Tobago in Group C for the June 14 first phase. In his 300th game for St George, Mike O'Shea scores the winning goal to help the Saints to a 3-2 win over South Melbourne. Marconi slips from equal first to fifth during the month after failing to take full points in six matches. Ivan Kelic equals the NSL scoring record with a double hat-trick in Melbourne Croatia's 8-1 demolition of Wollongong Macedonia. That effort shoots Kelic to top of the scorers list and gives his team a mortgage on top of the league ladder.

APRIL

Parramatta's Melita Eagles soars to its greatest height when a 1-0 defeat of champion Sydney Olympic assures the club a start in the Top Five play-offs, while sinking Olympic's own final chances of back-to-back titles. Melbourne Croatia takes out the premiership, followed by South Melbourne, Adelaide City, Marconi and The Eagles. Melita puts some silver in the trophy cabinet by winning the coveted NSL Cup knockout over Preston thanks to a goal from All-White (New Zealand) Greg Brown. On a brighter note for Sydney Olympic, veteran keeper Gary Meier celebrates



The scoreboard tells the story of the finals' excitement.

20 years of service to the club with a testimonial match and dinner. Marconi's David Seal tops the NSL scorers' tally with 19 goals, snatching victory in the last round with a double in Marconi's defeat of Wollongong Macedonia. Ivan Kelic and Tony Krslovic tie for second on 17 apiece. The Top Five series gets underway with a nail-biting win for Marconi over gallant Melita in a penalty shoot-out, with scores 2-2 at full-time and 3-3 after extra-time. Marconi-Fairfield takes the shoot-out 7-6. South Melbourne beats Adelaide City 4-2 in the other semi. Then Sydney's hopes in the Top Five series dies with Marconi-Fairfield's 0-1 elimination by Adelaide City, while Melbourne Croatia sets up its grand final start with a 1-0 win in the major semi over South Melbourne. But the Hellas bounce back in the preliminary final with a goal by Paul Trimboli to win 1-0 over Adelaide City.

MAY

In one of the most nail-biting finals on record, Ferenc Puskas' South Melbourne Hellas wins its second championship. With the scores 1-1 after extra time, the penalty shoot-out is a nervous affair with an amazing seven spot kicks missed in the tussle. Croatia comes out with one consolation: Josef Biskic takes the Joe Marston Medal for the man of the match. Apia Leichhardt turns in a clean season to win the Mitre Fair Play award. On the May 18 awards' night, the prized players' player award for the Johnny Warren medal goes south to midfielder Milan Ivanovic. The under-21 medal goes to Young Socceroo captain and Marconi star, Paul Okon. World Cup referee Chris Bambridge gets the referee-of-the-year title. The Socceroos retain the Trans-Tasman Cup winning 1-0 in Christchurch and 2-1 at Adelaide's Hindmarsh stadium, while the Young Socceroos prepare to jet out for the 1991 World Youth Cup.

All you ever wanted to know about the NSL (but never thought to ask)

- The record number for NSL appearances going into this season is held by Adelaide City midfielder Sergio Melta (344). Other players who have topped the 300-game milestone are Theo Selemides (Melbourne Croatia, 326), David Ratcliffe (Wollongong City, 316), Steve Blair (South Melbourne, 309) and Graham Jennings (Apia-Leichhardt, 301).
- There are only five survivors from the inaugural NSL season in 1977. Tony Pezzano (Wollongong City), Mike O'Shea (Wollongong City), Sergio Melta (Adelaide City), Gary Meier (Sydney Olympic) and Theo Selemides (Melbourne Croatia) are the proud veterans.
- The record crowd for an NSL home-and-away match is 18,376 for the game between Newcastle KB United and Sydney Olympic in May, 1979. The record attendance for any NSL game is 26,352 for the grand final between Sydney Olympic and Marconi-Fairfield at Parramatta Stadium in May, 1990.
- The lowest official crowd for an NSL game is 288 for the match between St George and South Melbourne, at Lambert Park, April 22, 1990.
- The most goals scored by a player in one match is six, a feat achieved by both Pat Brodnik (Wollongong City v West Adelaide, 1989-90) and Ivan Kelic (Melbourne Croatia v Wollongong Macedonia, 1990-91).
- The highest number of goals scored in a single season by one player is 23 by John Kosmina in 1982. Four players have won the top goalscorers award twice: Gary Cole, Doug Brown, Frank Farina and David Seal.
- The most number of goals scored by a team in a single season is the 68 notched by Sydney City in 1982.
- The most successful coach in the NSL has been Eddie Thomson who won three championships in a row with Sydney City.
- The record winning margin in the NSL has stood for over 10 years: Marconi-Fairfield 9, Blacktown City 0 (1980). The highest aggregate score was achieved in the first season of the NSL (1977) when Adelaide City beat Mooroolbark Utd 10-3.
- Seven clubs have been relegated from the NSL and managed to bounce back: Sydney Olympic, Brisbane Lions, St George, Blacktown City, West Adelaide, Heidelberg Utd and Wollongong City.
- The record transfer fee between NSL clubs is \$40,000 paid by Sydney Olympic for Scott Ollerenshaw in '89.



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Map Reference: Melway Map 27, A6

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SECRETARY — Zeljko SABO H (03) 749 3370

GEN MANAGER — Josip VUCICA B (03) 312 3584

COACH -- Ken MURPHY B (03) 312 3584

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score 8-1 vs W'gong Macedonia 1991

Top Cup Score 5-0 vs Beograd Wo'ville 1978

Top Club Scorer 17 goals Ivan Kelic 1991

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
AWARITEFE Francis	18/04/64	Striker	Sutton (Eng)
BACAK Josip	23/05/73	Striker	Melb Croatia Jnr
BERGAM Denis	07/01/72	Defender	Melb Croatia Jnr
BISKIC Josip	20/05/59	Midfield	Melb Croatia Jnr
CALETA Joe	30/05/66	Striker	St George BSC
DAVIDSON Alan	01/06/61	Defender	Sth Melbourne
DONNELLY Paul	14/07/60	Defender	Perth Azzurri
DUZEL Ivan	27/03/64	Midfield	St Albans (Vic)
HANNAH George	18/07/57	Defender	Melb Croatia Jnr
HORVAT Steve	14/03/71	Midfield	Nth Geelong
JERBIC Stipe	08/04/72	Defender	Melb Croatia Jnr
KELIC Ivan	29/12/68	Striker	St Albans (Vic)
KOSOR Tomislav	23/04/74	Goalkeeper	Melb Croatia Jnr
MARTH Andrew	10/02/69	Defender	Sunshine GC
MIHOCIC Dino	08/03/72	Midfield	Melb Croatia Jnr
MILANOVIC Richard	22/04/71	Striker	Melb Croatia Jnr
MILLER David	27/03/65	Goalkeeper	Adelaide Hellas
MILOSEVIC Branko	21/08/64	Midfield	Olympic Osijek
RADOS Joe	05/10/71	Goalkeeper	St Albans (Vic)
SELEMIDIS Theo	26/10/59	Defender	Heidelberg
SILIC Mark	26/02/72	Forward	Melb Croatia Jnr
SURIC Jani	27/03/73	Striker	Melb Croatia Jnr
TADIC Jurica	10/07/72	Striker	Melb Croatia Jnr
TALAJIC Mark	02/07/69	Midfield	Melb Croatia Jnr
TRUPKOVIC Peter	11/10/73	Forward	Melb Croatia Jnr
VANIS Vlado	13/08/65	Defender	Vancouver 86's
VARVODIC Nikola	17/05/73	Midfield	Melb Croatia Jnr





SYDNEY CROATIA

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Map Reference: Gregorys Map 181 E2

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H (02) 652 2228

SECRETARY — Mario POSPISHIL B (02) 623 6230
H (02) 623 6230

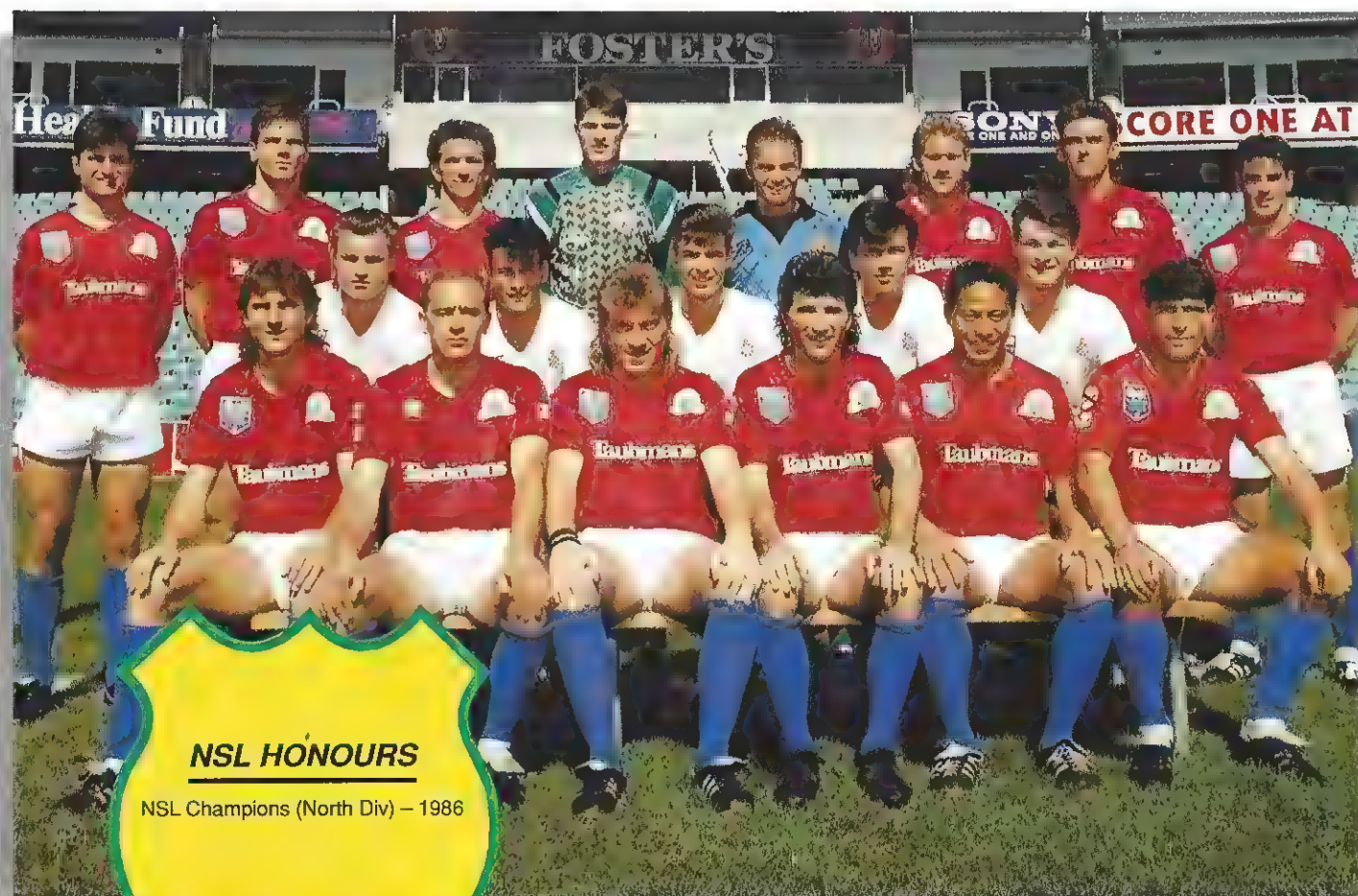
COACH — Mladen VRANKOVIC B (02) 727 3115

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BABIC Mark	24/04/73	Defender	Syd Croatia
BOSNICH Mark	13/01/72	Goakeeper	Manchester Utd
GONZALES Gabriel	24/07/73	Striker	Syd Croatia Jnr
GRBEVSKI Mike	06/04/67	Defender	St George
JURIN Zeljko	13/07/60	Forward	Wollongong Mac
KALAC Zeljko	16/12/72	Goalkeeper	Syd Croatia Jnr
KRSLOVIC Tony	14/07/69	Striker	St George
KUPRESAK Velim	01/09/63	Defender	St Albans
LAMOND Manis	14/09/66	Striker	Canberra City
MILICEVIC Tom	31/03/72	Midfield	Syd Croatia Jnr
MURICI Fadil	19/11/59	Midfield	Rijeka (Croatia)
PETKOVIC Ivan	06/01/60	Midfield	Sibenik (Croatia)
POPOVIC Tony	04/07/73	Defender	Syd Croatia Jnr
RICOY Pedro	27/11/66	Midfield	Apia Leichardt
RUMORA Ante	04/07/60	Defender	Dinamo Zagreb
RUNJE Robert	26/02/69	Defender	Preston Mak
STANTON Robert	15/04/72	Defender	Syd Croatia Jnr
STIPIC Miro	15/08/62	Midfield	Rijeka (Croatia)
VRILIC Peter	02/02/72	Defender	Syd Croatia Jnr
ZEC Matthew	30/03/73	Striker	Syd Croatia Jnr

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	6-1	vs	Melb. Croatia	1987
Top Cup Score	3-0	vs	Brisbane Lions	1988
Top Club Scorer	17 goals		Tony Krslovic	1991





PRESTON MAKEDONIA

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Map Reference: Melway, Map 18, B2

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COACH — John GARDINER H (03) 560 2486

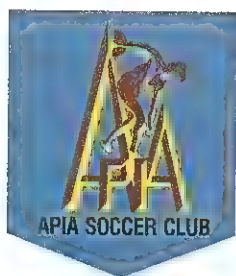
TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
CRINO Oscar	09/08/62	Midfield	Anorthosis (Cyp)
BEKIARIS Louis	08/02/72	Striker	AIS
EMSOVSKI Chris	26/12/71	Defender	Preston Jnrs
FERRANTE Vitale	14/06/72	Midfield	Fawkner
GEORGOPOULOS N	01/03/74	Striker	Preston Jnrs
JACKSON Steve	02/08/64	Defender	Brisbane Lions
MARCOVAC Joe	08/05/71	Striker	Preston Jnrs
MARKOVAC Robert	21/06/67	Striker	Sunshine GC
McALEER Gerrard	14/09/69	Striker	Thomastown
MOMIROVSKI Robert	24/07/71	Utility	Preston Jnrs
PARTON Shaun	07/09/61	Defender	Sunshine GC
PETROPOULOS Lou	15/03/72	Goalkeeper	Preston Jnrs
PETROV George	11/04/65	Midfield	Maribymong
RISTEVSKI Lori	25/06/73	Defender	Preston Jnrs
ROODHOUSE Ian	15/03/64	Defender	Box Hill (Vic)
SPASEVSKI Robert	07/11/72	Midfield	Preston Jnrs
SPINK Warren	04/10/66	Striker	Footscray
STOJCEVSKI Robert	01/01/73	Defender	Altona Gate
TRAJANOVSKI Kris	19/02/72	Striker	AIS
TRAIANEDES Phillip	31/03/66	Goalkeeper	Waverley City
ZINNI Andrew	06/03/65	Striker	Brunswick Juve

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	6-1	vs	Melbourne Croatia	1990/91
Top Cup Score	6-0	vs	White Eagles	1979
Top Club Scorer	14 goals		Steve Smith	1985





APIA LEICHHARDT

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Map Reference: Gregorys Map 146, C15,

PRESIDENT — Renato ORSATTI B (018) 28 1952
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SECRETARY — Harry AMBROSE B (02) 810 0187
H (02) 713 6760

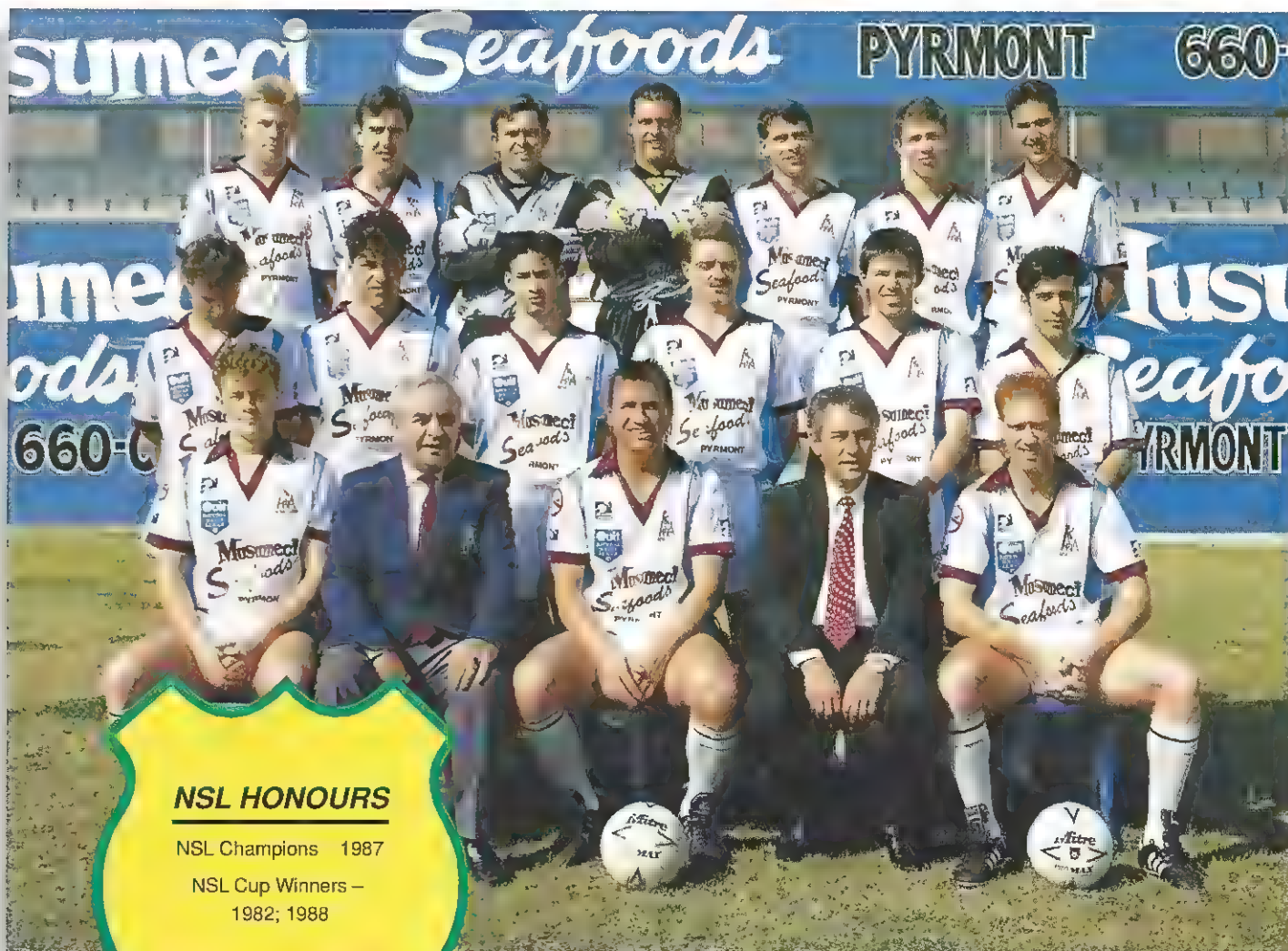
COACH — Manfred SCHAEFFER B (02) 810 1223
H (02) 602 2659

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BROWN Rodney	27/01/64	Striker	Marconi
BEAUFILS Simon	06/04/72	Midfield	Apia Jnr
CARTER Paul	17/07/63	Defender	Blacktown City
CLINCH Shane	06/01/64	Midfield	Sydney Croatia
DIHN Matthew	19/10/72	Defender	Apia Jnr
ELLEM Brian	19/06/67	Midfield	Blacktown City
GIBSON John	10/02/70	Midfield	Blacktown City
HUGHES Brett	19/04/69	Goalkeeper	Marconi
JENNINGS Graham	18/01/60	Defender	Sydney Croatia
McKINNA Laurie	08/07/61	Midfield	Blacktown City
McQUARRIE John	10/04/62	Striker	Adamstown Rosebuds
MINICHELLO Rino	15/08/66	Midfield	Brunswick Juventus
STEWART Darren	17/05/66	Defender	Newcastle Rosebuds
SPAUNADAKIS Eman	12/06/67	Defender	St George

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	7-2	vs	Brisbane Lions	1983
Top Cup Score	5-3	vs	Sydney Olympic	1982
Top Club Scorer	16 goals		Marshall Soper	1981



NSL HONOURS

NSL Champions 1987

NSL Cup Winners –
1982; 1988



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Map Reference: Melway Map 19, D11

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COACH -- Gary COLE B (03) 482 4745

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BORDIGNON Peter	30/10/68	Defender	Faulkner (Victoria)
BRATTEN Gary	01/01/60	Midfield	Caulfield
CHATZITRIFONOS M	08/05/69	Goalkeeper	Heidelberg Jnr
GOUTZIOULOS Angie	15/04/70	Forward	Caulfield City
KANESOULIS John	04/01/66	Utility	Sth Melbourne
LEWIS Paul	28/04/61	Striker	Sunshine GC
MANGOS Steve	01/04/73	Forward	Heidelberg Jnr
OLVER Jeff	25/12/60	Goalkeeper	Melb Croatia
OUSALKAS Nick	22/04/69	Defender	Heidelberg Jnr
RIZOPOULOS Terry	24/08/69	Forward	Port Melbourne
SCOTT Alan	20/09/63	Defender	Melb Croatia
SLIFKAS George	18/10/69	Midfield	Preston Mak
STUBBINS Philip	18/10/62	Midfield	Bridlington Town (England)
SIDRIVANIS Con	03/12/73	Midfield	Heidelberg Jnr
TSAKIRIS Jim	04/07/70	Forward	Clarinda (Vic)
VAN EGMOND Nick	28/03/66	Midfield	Croydon

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	6-0	vs	Brisbane City	1986
Top Cup Score	6-3	vs	Praharan Slavia	1978
Top Club Scorer	Gary Cole	21 goals		1980



NSL HONOURS

NSL Grand Final Winners — 1980



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B (049) 52 6626

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
ADAMSON Dean	09/05/72	Striker	Austral Jnr
BARKLEY Noel	25/03/61	Striker	Mt Wellington
DEVETAK Simon	30/04/73	Goalkeeper	Austral Jnr
HEDDLE Ian	25/03/64	Midfield	St Johnstone
HILLIER Darren	16/09/72	Midfield	Brisbane Lions
KOCH John	26/06/68	Midfield	Sydney Olympic
KOCZKA Andrew	29/09/65	Defender	St George
LAHIFF Sean	21/01/69	Goalkeeper	Koparit (Finland)
LANE Benn	20/11/73	Striker	Austral Jnr
LONGO Dominic	23/08/70	Defender	Blacktown City
MAIER Ralph	05/05/64	Defender	Blacktown City
MEREDITH Nick	11/12/67	Midfield	Brisbane Lions
NAUMOV Bob	14/06/64	Midfield	W'gong Macedonia
ROBERTS Andrew	28/03/70	Defender	Austral Jnr
TUAA Colin	15/03/68	Striker	Nelson (New Zealand)

GENERAL MANAGER — David McQUIRE	B (049) 51 2475
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COACH -- Bruce STOWELL	B (049) 51 2475





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CLUB MANAGER — Irene TONER B (08) 346 1055

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COACH — Zoran MATIC B (08) 262 3529

H (08) 49 2885

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
ALOISI John	05/02/76	Striker	Adel City Jnr
ALOISI Ross	17/04/73	Midfield	Adel City Jnr
BARBARO Jospeh	02/01/72	Striker	Adel City Jnr
BROOKS Michael	24/03/71	Striker	Salisbury Utd
CHRISTOPOULOS J	31/03/71	Midfield	Polonia (SA)
CSOBOTH Robert	07/10/65	Fullback	Pecsi Munkas (Hungary)
IVANOVIC Milan	21/12/60	Defender	Red Star (Yug)
MAXWELL Stephen	17/01/65	Striker	Marconi
MELTA Sergo	19/01/59	Midfield	Birkalla (SA)
MULLEN Joseph	05/01/64	Striker	Para Hills (SA)
SHILLABEER Paul	29/09/63	Defender	Beograd SA
TAPAI Ernie	14/02/67	Striker	Sunshine GC
TOBIN Alexander	03/11/65	Defender	Adel City Jnr
TALLADIRA Carlo	23/06/71	Forward	Adel City Jnr
VEART Carl	21/05/65	Striker	Salisbury Utd
VIDMAR Anthony	04/07/70	Defender	Adel City Jnr
ZABICA Robert	09/04/64	Goalkeeper	Stirling Macedonia

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	10-3 vs	Mooroolbark	1977
Top Cup Score	5-0 vs	Noalunga Utd	1978
Top Club Scorer	16 goals	Dixie Deans	1977



NSL HONOURS

NSL Champions (Southern) — 1986

NSL Grand Final Winners — 1986

NSL Cup Winners (PSL) —
1979; 1989



Melita Eagles Soccer Club

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UBD Map 80, A10

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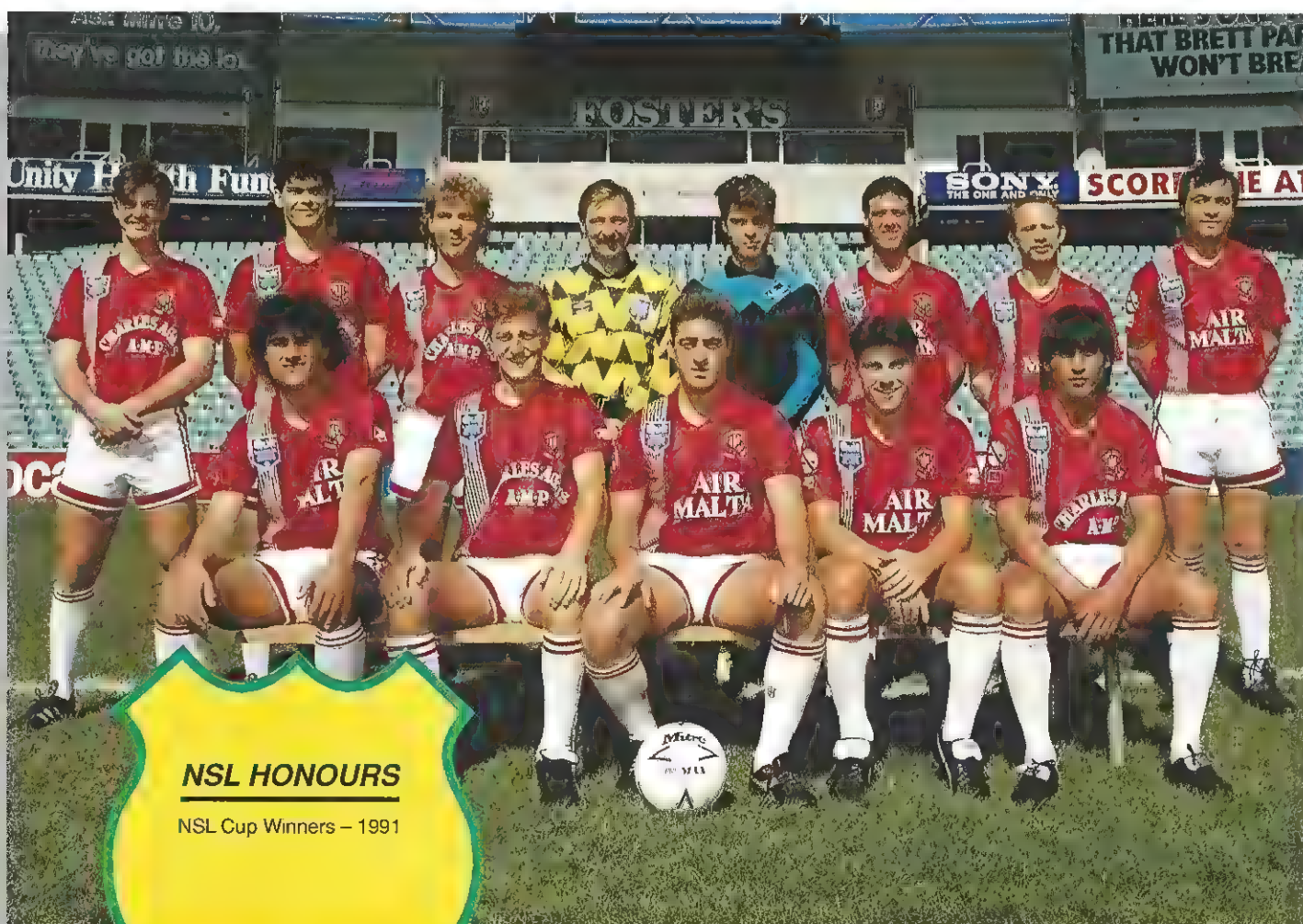
COACH — Raul BLANCO H (02) 609 3354

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BARRIOS Alfredo	15/09/59	Defender	Docksud (Argentina)
CALLANAN Andrew	30/08/66	Midfield	Melita Juniors
CIANTAR Adam	15/03/72	Defender	St George BSC
CURMI Mathew	01/08/72	Defender	Melita Jnr
DICKINSON Greg	20/05/71	Defender	Melita Jnr
EL ALI Osvaldo	03/12/62	Striker	St George BSC
FALZON Jason	02/02/71	Defender	Melita Jnr
GENC Aytek	03/02/66	Midfield	Uruguay Pen
GIMENEZ Hugo	24/02/65	Midfield	Docksud
GONZALEZ Christian	02/06/72	Goalkeeper	Granville Chile
MARTINCICH Aldo	04/05/73	Striker	Apia Leichhardt
McPHERSON Alex	11/03/58	Goalkeeper	Sydney City
NOWICKI Jarek	11/01/61	Striker	Polonia
O'DONELL Scott	16/06/67	Defender	Rockdale
OKON Klaus	14/07/69	Midfield	Apia Leichhardt
SOPER Marshall	12/05/60	Striker	Canterbury
VIAL Lenny	05/06/65	Forward	Adelaide City
WHEATLEY Robbie	17/05/62	Defender	Marconi

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	4-0	vs	Heidelberg Utd	1990/91
Top Cup Score	3-1	vs	Sth Melbourne	1991
Top Club Scorer	14 goals		Greg Brown	1990



NSL HONOURS

NSL Cup Winners - 1991



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Premier Map 97, 55

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TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BARRETT David	21/02/69	Defender	Sydney City
BERNAL Andrew	16/05/66	Defender	Ipswich Town
BREDBURY Tim	25/04/63	Striker	Lai Sun (HK)
BOUHOUTSOS G	03/04/69	Goalkeeper	W'gong City
CARDOZO Pablo	23/12/72	Striker	Syd Oly Jnr
GOSLING Clint	01/05/60	Goalkeeper	Sydney City
HOOKE Robert	06/03/67	Defender	Sydney City
HRISTODOULOU E	23/06/70	Midfield	Sydney City
IRONSIDE Robbie	20/08/67	Midfield	North Shore (NZ)
LEE Grant	19/10/61	Midfield	Sydney City
MEIER Gary	10/09/55	Goalkeeper	Syd Oly Jnr
OLLERENSHAW S	09/02/68	Striker	St George
PANSON Paul	11/08/72	Defender	Syd Oly Jnr
PHILLIPS Gary	09/06/63	Midfield	Coffs Harbour
PLATANIOTIS Nick	03/01/69	Defender	Marconi
REFENES Steve	19/02/70	Midfield	Sydney City
SORRAS George	11/04/72	Midfield	AIS

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	6-1	vs	Blacktown City	1984
Top Cup Score	6-3	vs	St George	1989
Top Club Scorer	16 goals		Marshall Soper	1982

COACH — Mick HICKMAN
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WEST ADELAIDE

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TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
AGOSTINO Paul	09/06/75	Striker	Salisbury
BLAIR Raymond	12/11/58	Striker	East Fife (Scotland)
BRAZZALE Mark	13/09/69	Midfield	West Adel Jnr
CAPASSO Massimo	30/03/68	Defender	Cumberland
KERAMIDAS Jim	16/09/66	Striker	Therbarton
KOKKINOPLITIS Con	18/03/70	Midfield	West Adel Jnr
MILLS Greg	06/08/70	Defender	AIS
POLITIS Steve	07/06/71	Striker	West Adel Jnr
PIRES John	20/09/74	Defender	West Adel Jnr
RANKIN Peter	02/06/64	Striker	West Adel Jnr
SANTRAC Adrian	29/06/58	Midfield	Adelaide City
STAMATELOPOULOS	13/04/71	Midfield	Azzurri
TIBALDI Frank	31/07/74	Defender	West Adel Jnr
TSOLERIDIS Chris	17/11/67	Goalkeeper	Port Adelaide
VATSILAS Lemmy	01/06/66	Striker	Adelaide City
WATKINS Quentin	17/10/65	Defender	West Adel Jnr

NOTE: NEW ENTRY TO NSL

COACH — Nic PANTSARAS B (08) 276 1319





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COACH — Miron BLEIBERG B (07) 857 4100
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TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BULLOCK Steven	03/04/66	Defender	Stockport (UK)
CAHUT Ibro	11/04/68	Defender	W'gong City
CRANNEY Sean	02/10/73	Striker	Taringa
EVANS Wayne	30/07/59	Goalkeeper	Brisbane City
FARROW Robert	15/04/63	Goalkeeper	Brisbane Lions
GREER Mark	03/12/62	Defender	North Star
HADDOW Shane	18/01/70	Midfield	North Star
HALLIGAN Danny	17/02/65	Midfield	Christchurch
HUNTER Alan	18/07/63	Defender	Melita Eagles
HUNTER David	25/07/67	Defender	Brisbane Lions
JORGENSEN Carl	18/06/67	Midfield	Waitakere City
KOCH Clayton	11/08/70	Striker	Sydney Croatia
MENGOTTI Frank	26/06/62	Defender	Brisbane Lions
PIMBLETT Frank	12/03/57	Midfield	Eastern Subs
RUNJE Mirko	10/08/66	Goalkeeper	Croydon City
SLATER Chris	16/04/70	Striker	Brisbane Lions
STEVENSON Stuart	26/08/62	Striker	Heidelberg Utd
STOWELL Andrew	04/05/63	Midfield	Brisbane Lions

NOTE: NEW ENTRY TO NSL





MARCONI

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Map Reference: Gregorys Map 97, F12

UBD Map 59C, E8

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ADMIN OFFICER — Ken HASTIE

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COACH — Berti MARIANI

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TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BLAGOJEVIC Milan	24/12/69	Defender	Apia Leichhardt
CATLIN Robert	22/06/65	Goalkeeper	Apia Leichhardt
CALDERAN Steve	24/04/63	Defender	Marconi Jnr
CERRO Gustavo	17/07/69	Forward	Melita Eagles
CORICA Steve	24/03/73	Midfield	AIS
DE MARIGNY John P	21/01/64	Defender	Apia Leichhardt
GEORGAKIS Steve	25/08/70	Defender	Sydney Olympic
GRAY Ian	22/07/63	Midfield	Apia Leichhardt
JOHNSON Glen	16/07/72	Striker	Marconi Jnr
LOWE David	30/08/63	Midfield	Newcastle Utd
MARKOVSKI John	15/04/70	Striker	Melb Croatia
McCULLOCH Tommy	10/02/64	Midfield	Sydney City
MENDEZ Gabriel	12/03/73	Midfield	Marconi Jnr
SCHWARZER Mark	06/10/72	Goalkeeper	Marconi Jnr
SEAL David	26/01/72	Striker	Sydney Croatia
VAN EGMOND Gary	29/06/65	Defender	Roda JC (Holland)

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	9-0	vs	Blacktown City	1980
Top Cup Score	5-1	vs	Canberra City	1977
Top Club Scorer	20 goals		Zlatko Nasteovski	1989



NSL HONOURS

NSL Grand Final Winners —
1988; 1989

NSL Champions — 1979; 1987; 1989

NSL Cup Winners — 1980

NSL Premiers — 1989/90



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TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BLAIR Steve	28/12/61	Defender	Albion Rovers
BOUTSIANIS Con	27/12/71	Striker	Caulfield City
DURAKOVIC Mehmet	13/10/65	Defender	Melbourne City
FERNANDES Paul	22/08/67	Midfield	Sth Melb Jnr
HEALY David	13/03/68	Defender	Knox City (Vic)
HASLER Gary	05/07/70	Midfield	Sunshine GC
MACLAREN Bruce	11/05/62	Goalkeeper	Bronsgrove Rvrs
MICHALAKOPOULOS	07/12/69	Forward	Port Melbourne
PALATSIDES Joe	02/07/65	Forward	Melbourne City
PETERSEN Mike	06/05/65	Striker	Brunswick Juve
POSTECOGLOU A	27/08/65	Defender	Sth Melb Jnr
TALIADOROS Kimon	28/03/68	Defender	Box Hill (Vic)
TASIOS Steve	31/07/67	Midfield	Heidelberg Utd
TSOLAKIS Peter	10/12/65	Striker	Heidelberg Utd
TRIMBOLI Paul	25/02/69	Striker	Sunshine GC
WADE Paul	20/03/62	Midfield	Brunswick Juve
WRIGHT Danny	02/11/64	Striker	Brisbane Lions

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	7-0	vs	Newcastle Roae	1884
Top Cup Score	6-2	vs	Canberra City	1983
Top Club Scorer	22 goals		Doug Brown	1984



NSL HONOURS

NSL Champions — 1984; 1991

National Conference Premiers —
1984; 1985

NSL Cup Winners — 1990



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COACH — David RATCLIFFE H (02) 522 5132

TEAM LINE-UP 1991/92

NAME	D.O.B.	POSITION	PREVIOUS CLUB
BAGGOT Stephen	30/11/71	Midfield	W'gong Jnr
BATE Frank	25/11/63	Striker	Sterling (WA)
BRODNIK Patrick	20/10/66	Striker	Illawarra
CELLINI Claudio	30/07/65	Midfield	Sth Cst Croatia
DANZO John	10/08/70	Striker	Fairy Meadow
DIMOSKI Sasho	11/07/74	Striker	W'gong Jnr
FARMER Paul	15/02/67	Midfield	Athena (WA)
GREEN David	04/05/63	Defender	St George BSC
HAGAN Kevin	11/08/57	Striker	Sydney Olympic
HOLLIFIELD Michael	02/05/61	Defender	Southbank AFC (United Kingdom)
HORSLEY Matthew	09/06/72	Midfield	Balgownie
HRISTOVSKI Zivko	31/11/65	Midfield	Woll Macedonia
LLOYD Richard	15/07/69	Midfield	Fairy Meadow
MORLANDO Giacomo	05/08/61	Defender	Fairy Meadow
OLDRIDGE Jason	30/06/70	Striker	Sydney Olympic
O'SHEA Michael	27/03/60	Defender	St George
PEZZANO Tony	23/06/60	Goalkeeper	Apia Leichhardt
RATCLIFFE David	09/03/57	Defender	St George BSC
SKEEN David	13/01/62	Defender	St George BSC
WILLIAMS Shane	04/01/72	Midfield	Dapto
YANKOS Charlie	29/05/61	Defender	Canterbury

CLUB RECORDS

Top NSL Score	7-0	vs	Adelaide Hellas	1990
Top Club Scorer	18 goals		Phil O'Conner	1982





Picture shows David Green who works at BHP's Port Kembla Steelworks and BHP Wolves coach David Ratcliffe with two young fans on a recent promotional trip to Darwin.

BHP and the Wolves



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Sport & Talk

Olympic torch heats up

Our Under-23 team kicks on towards Barcelona 1992

IT IS somewhat ironic that soccer is rarely seen as an integral part of the Olympic sporting movement—indeed, many people do not even know that soccer is played at the Olympic Games. Yet soccer, in fact, is a crucial component of the Games and has featured in every Olympics bar one since Athens launched the modern Olympic Games in 1896.

In that time, the standing of Olympic soccer has varied: relevant as a medal sport from 1908, important as the only inter-continental football tournament before the World Cup began in 1930, less significant as professionalism took hold in the post-war years, then hardly noticed by the world press over the past two decades as the Olympic movement and the public became preoccupied with swimming, track and field.

Yet for all its chequered history, soccer has always been considered important by the International Olympic Committee, regardless of public perceptions. The major reason for this is the enduring appeal of the sport which has consistently attracted the biggest attendances at the Games, and therefore generated a great deal of revenue for the IOC.

Even at Los Angeles in 1984, soccer brought more people through the gate than any other sport. And it was at these Games that the IOC and their football contemporaries, FIFA, realised it was time to give soccer a more fitting status.

At the last Olympics in Seoul, when professionals were permitted to compete for the first time in all sports, the football tournament was open to national teams with no restrictions. This will not happen again.

From now on, after much debate between the IOC and FIFA, the Olympic Games will be constricted to under-23 teams — not threatening the standing of the World Cup while, at the same time, giving audiences the chance to see the best up-and-coming players in the football world.

From a soccer point of view, certainly, that's a fair compromise.

For Australia — which, as host, participated unsuccessfully at the Melbourne games of 1956 — the Olympics have not been a major chapter in our footballing history.

Apart from that fleeting Melbourne '56 appearance, Australia's only other involvement came in Seoul where the Socceroos covered themselves in glory by reaching the quarter-finals. Now, during the 1991-92 NSL season, the national under-23 team is striving to make it third-time lucky at the Barcelona Olympics.

Ask seasoned internationals such as John Kosmina, David Mitchell, Alan Davidson, Graham Jennings and



Frank Farina flies high against the USSR at the Seoul Olympics, 1988.

Frank Farina, what has been the highlight of their careers, and they all talk fondly of the Seoul Olympics. Now it's time for the next generation, which includes a core of outstanding young players, to work towards a similar dream of Olympic glory. Already a great deal of effort, planning and money has gone towards helping Australia qualify for Barcelona.

Thanks to generous Federal Government grants, the Olympic team was able to tour Europe last year (1990) to help prepare for their opening qualifying games.

Clearly, this extensive preparation has had the desired effect. When coach Eddie Thomson first selected his Olympic squad midway through 1990, he was hardly excited about the talent at his disposal. Since then, thanks largely to the weeding-out

process achieved by the tours, he has been able to settle on a squad which has developed significantly since its first, tentative outings.

So much so, that during the first round of Oceania qualifiers in March, Australia finished with a 100 per cent record in the home matches against New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. For the return legs in October/November, Thomson may be without Paul Okon, who has gone to Europe, but has the solace of being able to select players from the Young Socceroos now that the world youth championships have come and gone.

Thomson also received a boost when youth team goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, returned home in July to resume his NSL career after failing to secure the

work permit he needed to stay with Manchester United. With Bosnich and first-choice John Filan competing for the place between the sticks, Eddie Thomson has two world-class goalkeepers at his disposal. Australia's other key players are sweeper Ned Zelic, fullbacks Milan Blagojevic and Tony Vidmar, skillful playmaker George Slifkas, midfielder John Markovski and top strikers David Seal and Carl Veart. Thomson is also toying with the idea of including Belgian-based striker Zlatko Arambasic in his plans, while Okon and Lorenz Kindtner, both at Club Brugge in Belgium,

will also come into the reckoning for the play-offs next year. Whatever combination Thomson finally settles on, qualification from the Oceania group looks to be a formality.

That leaves the play-off (home and away) against a European nation for a place at Barcelona, and there is every reason to believe that the Olyroos (as they have become known) will be up to the task. Certainly, the prospect of playing at Barcelona is proving an enormous attraction to the under-23 squad. And who can blame them?

Players like Blagojevic and Vidmar have stalled plans to join European clubs and it's not hard to see why.

Apart from providing a grand stage to parade their talents, Barcelona — as one of the most soccer-crazed cities in the world — will be seething with a fever that no-one will want to miss.

Olympic Games football: The Winners

1904: Canada; 1908: Great Britain; 1912: Great Britain; 1920: Belgium; 1924: Uruguay; 1928: Uruguay; 1932: Not included; 1936: Italy; 1948: Sweden; 1952: Hungary; 1956: USSR; 1960: Yugoslavia; 1964: Hungary; 1968: Hungary; 1972: Poland; 1976: East Germany; 1980: Czechoslovakia; 1984: France; 1988: USSR.

*awarded retrospectively

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Shooting for future stars

MICHAEL COCKERILL of *The Sydney Morning Herald* looks at the NSL's new development program

DO YOU ever wonder where players such as Paul Okon, Frank Farina and Ned Zelic come from? Steve Darby does; indeed, as the Australian Soccer Federation's national development officer, it's a question that consumes much of his time. The players who make their name with the Socceroos, or go on to make the grade as well-paid professionals overseas, do not materialise out of thin air. By and large, they are the end result of a national development program which was first put into place by Eric Worthington in the mid 1970s and has been improved, refined, expanded and rejuvenated at various time intervals since then.

Now, almost two decades after the first coaching schemes were put in place, the game has reached another plateau.

And Darby, mindful of the need to constantly upgrade the program in the face of tough opposition from rival football codes, is at the forefront of moves to take soccer a step further towards a buoyant, healthy future in Australia.

As of this season, the 14 Coca-Cola NSL clubs will each have their own part-time development officers (DOs), responsible for promoting the game, their clubs and the development of skills in the local districts designated by the ASF.

In soccer terms, it is certainly an ambitious project — in essence, the direct result of one of the key recommendations of the Bradley Report which delved into the state of the game in this country.

Although the Bradley report had originally suggested each DO should be appointed on a full-time basis, and that recommendation has since been watered down, the major thrust of the program remains in place. Now it is Darby's job to turn the rhetoric into reality.

The first step on that road took place in early August when a seminar for DOs was held at the AIS in Canberra. Darby came away from the two-day think-tank very enthused about the response.

"Everybody was as keen as mustard; some of them can't wait to get started. And the general quality of the DOs surprised me. I'm confident they will all do a great job."

The exact nature of that job has been laid out to all 14 appointees in a fairly

precise job description. The ASF has outlined their tasks as:

*Recruiting and training a pool of players who are capable of carrying out national, state and club programs;



Paul Okon: end product of a development program.

Who's who (that's DOs, not don'ts)

South Melbourne: Sam Meyer
Melbourne Croatia: Billy Votjek
Preston: Oscar Crino
Heidelberg United: Gary Bratten
Sydney Croatia: Mark Bosnich
Marconi-Fairfield: Berti Mariani
Parramatta Melita: Andrew Callanan
Sydney Olympic: Gary Phillips
Apia-Leichhardt: Brian Ellem
Newcastle Breakers: Ken Kaiser
Wollongong City: Chris James
Brisbane United: Alan Hunter
Adelaide City: Ernie Tapai
West Adelaide: John Karounos

*Planning an annual program of school and junior club visits;

*Developing a thorough coaching and promotions syllabus;

*Creating club promotional material;

*Liasing with local media, councils and promotion outlets.

According to Darby, the basic role of the Development Officers will be to combine both administrative and promotional tasks with the practical implementation of the development programs. It is envisaged that this will help achieve a greater awareness of the clubs in the community and of the NSL in general.

The benefits will not only flow to the NSL clubs in terms of improved district-based support, but will also help to supply a steady stream of local players into their ranks. And perhaps the greatest asset of the scheme is that it will serve to break down the ethnic barriers which have served to dilute the general appeal of Australian soccer.

The task before the DOs, of course, is not an easy one. In many ways, they are venturing into uncharted waters, with only a handful of clubs having been involved in such programs in the past. The key, quite clearly, will be co-ordinating the program to maximise the effect, and benefits, to the league. The overseer for this onerous duty is Robbie Wheatley, the former Socceroo who has had a big impact as development officer for the NSW Amateur Federation in recent seasons.

Wheatley is likely to control the operations of the NSW clubs from his office at Parklea, while his Victorian counterpart, Jeff Oliver, is likely to do the very same from Melbourne. "We don't want to be tripping over each other, so it's important that we co-ordinate the program properly," says Wheatley.

"I've been happy with the enthusiasm of the people who have been appointed by the clubs, and it is now just a matter of getting down to basics," he says. To get the program off on the right track, the 13 Sydney-based associations

have already been divided up among the NSL clubs, while the training of the development officers continued right through the off-season.

As well, Wheatley has a number of trips to the country planned for the development officers towards the end of the season.

All this, of course, augurs well for not only improving playing standards at grass-roots level, but also generating more enthusiasm for the National Soccer League.

And if the National Soccer League can regain some of its lustre, then it may help to persuade gifted athletes not to drift into other sports.

Will the exodus lead soccer to promised land?

As our best players leave in hordes to make it big overseas, MICHAEL COCKERILL examines the benefits, and drawbacks, for local soccer

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER now has a bona-fide international star. And what's more, he may even be seen in a Socceroo shirt in the not-too-distant future. Frank Farina, the 27-year-old striker with the Tom Cruise-visage, has become our first genuine superstar.

While Craig Johnston and, in more recent years, Tony Dorigo, have become regulars in the English first division (and even fringe members of the English national team), Farina has magaged to scale soccer's version of Mt Everest: the Italian Serie A.

Ambitious Bari, determined to break the northern stranglehold on the title, forked out \$4.5 million to buy Farina from his Belgian team, Club Brugge, last June. He was part of a \$50 million jigsaw which included Englishman David Platt and seven other players from elsewhere in Italy.

"It's a little different from playing at Marconi Stadium," Farina joked on the eve of his debut match against Torino.

And yet, increasingly, the dividing line between the sumptuous surroundings of the space-age Stadio San Nicola in Bari and the relatively impoverished setting of grounds like Conner Reserve and Lambert Park is becoming less and less apparent.

What Farina has shown is that Australian players, no matter how humble their background, have the raw talent to progress to the very top, and this has now been recognised by the European clubs and their scouts — further proof that, on the field, we have finally come of age.

It hasn't taken all that long, either. In the 40 years after World War II, just a handful of Australians — notable among them, Joe Marston, Adrian Alston and Rene Colusso — managed to play professionally overseas. Johnston and Dorigo, of course, made the transition in the early 1980s, but the fact they chose not to play for Australia took some gloss off their attraction.

As recently as 1985 there were just five Australians — Johnston, Dorigo, David Mitchell (Glasgow Rangers),

Alan Davidson (Nottingham Forest) and Eddie Krncevic (Cercle Brugge) — in the pro ranks of Europe. Then came the explosion, thanks largely to the exploits of Frank Arok's Socceroos, and the encouraging results achieved by our youth teams at under-17 and under-20 level.

At last count, just prior to the start of the 1991-92 NSL season, there were 29 Australians overseas (see panel), with at least as many again having trials all over the European continent in the hope of securing a contract.

The fact that the number of Australians in the professional ranks has jumped six-fold in just seven seasons gives a fair indication of how suddenly the picture has changed.

Instead of being an importer of raw talent (too much of it, of course, second rate), Australian soccer is now exporting its best players to some of the biggest clubs in the world. There is no single reason for this, but overall it serves to reflect how much playing standards have improved in this country during the past two decades.

The credit for this can go to a variety of people and events: to Eric Worthington for helping establish a coaching scheme in the mid 1970s; to Rudi Gutendorf for imploring the ASF to establish a youth team in 1979; to the Federal Liberal Government for establishing the Australian Institute of Sport and allowing soccer to participate; to the likes of Krncevic, Johnston and Dorigo for providing the role models for Australian youngsters to follow; and even to SBS for bringing the full glamour, excitement and attraction of world soccer into our living rooms and captivating the attention of a generation of aspiring young footballers.

The end result of all these developments was to bring big-time soccer closer to Australia, and our players have responded to the challenge. While former greats like Ray Richards, Johnny Warren and even John Kosmina missed the boat, today's youngsters have an appetising

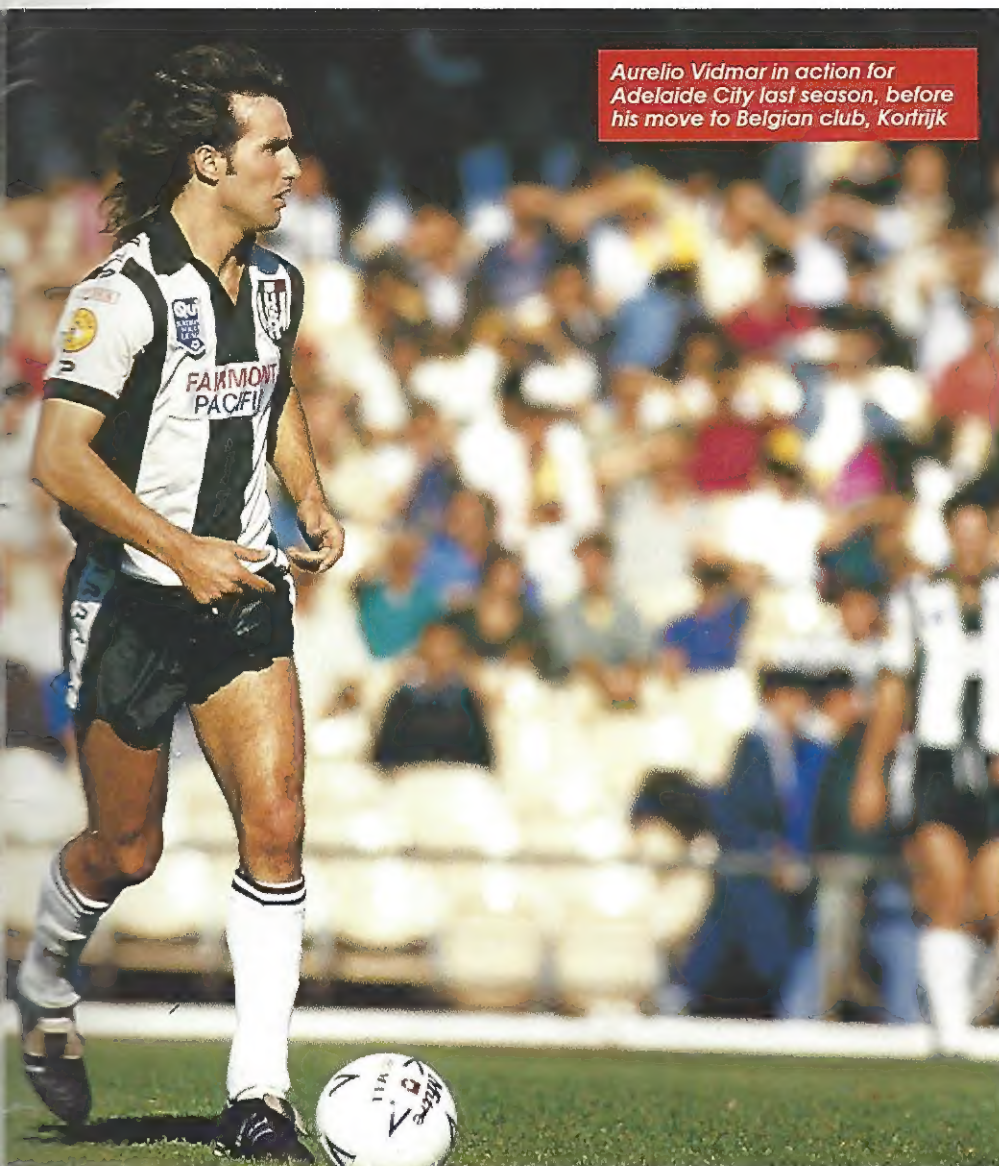
list of opportunities spread before them: AIS scholarships, national teams at under-17, under-20 and now under-23 level, and even overseas travel with schoolboy and club teams. If you are talented, young and Australian these days, there is every chance you will make it to the top.

That message, obviously, is now filtering through to the rest of the world. Slowly, but surely, a network of scouts and agents has begun to cast a wide net across the playing fields of Australia, and players as young as 15 and 16 are being told of the mouth-watering opportunities that await them.

Clubs, too, are at last starting to get a realistic return on their investments — witness the \$200,000 to \$300,000 fees paid for Paul Okon, Lorenz Kindtner and Aurelio Vidmar during a hectic month of buying just before the start of the current European season.

The pipeline, then, is now well and truly in place. Fine ambassadors for Australian soccer like Farina, Graham Arnold, Krncevic and Vlado Bozinoski are showing football's "First world" that we are ready to make a greater impact





Aurelio Vidmar in action for Adelaide City last season, before his move to Belgian club, Kortrijk

Australians overseas

BELGIUM: Paul Okon (Club Brugge), Lorenz Kindtner (Club Brugge), Aurelio Vidmar (Kortrijk), Zlatko Arambasic (Mechelen), Eddie Krncevic (FC Liege), George Kulcsar (Royal Antwerp).

CHILE: John Crawley (Colo Colo)

ENGLAND: David Mitchell (Swindon Town), Jason Kearton (Everton), David Clarkson (Brighton), Glen Sprod (Exeter City), Andrew Petterson (Luton Town), Patrick Bradley (Bury), Jason Knight (West Ham), Robbie Johnson (Watford), Stefan Jee (Southampton), David Kealy (Millwall)

FRANCE: Robbie Slater (Lens)

GREECE: Jim Patikas (AEK Athens), Terry Patalis (Kallithea), Lour Hristodoulou (Panathinaikos), Tony Spyridakos (Pierikos), Chris Kalantzis (Panathinaikos), John Anastasiadis (PAOK Salonika)

ITALY: Frank Farina (Bari)

THE NETHERLANDS: Graham Arnold (Roda JC Kerkrade), Jason Polak (De Graafschap)

PORTUGAL: Vlado Bozinoski (Beira Mar)

SCOTLAND: Lachlan Armstrong (Dundee)

on the international stage. Our results in recent years confirm that estimation: wins over Argentina and Yugoslavia at senior level, a semi-final berth at the world youth championships, and further promise shown at under-17 level during the Junior World Cup in Italy in August.

The future, then, seems rosy — but there is a down side to the equation. With the likelihood that more, not less, Australians will be earning their keep in Europe and South America in the future, the question is how can the local game cope with the exodus?

At the top, the problem could become acute for the Socceroos: all the best players overseas, their clubs unwilling to release them, and the team losing its spectator appeal at home because the stars are too busy elsewhere. At the next level — the youth teams — all the best players could also be gone, further eroding the pool of players available for the Socceroos. And at NSL level, where the clubs are crying out for personality players to bring fans through the gate, the loss of these

players is most keenly felt. So what to do? Stopping the exodus is simply not an option — like any career, soccer players should be able to strive for the very best. Managing the exodus to maximise the benefits for both the players and the game in general is the real, most effective, alternative.

Thankfully, the ASF has recognised this fact, and is in the process of drawing up contracts which will allow the top players in Australia to turn full-time. These contracts, similar to those employed by the Australian Cricket Board, will allow Australia's best soccer players to earn a decent wage by combining club income with that from the ASF, and will also help the federation monitor the flow of talent overseas.

Under this scheme, the ASF will receive a percentage of any transfer fee, and will also be able to insist on clauses making the players available for the various national teams. It is a situation which will safeguard the interests of Australian soccer, but at the same time not interfere unnecessarily with the market forces

which take these players overseas. For players like Farina, of course, these issues are no longer relevant. But that is not to say that he and his compatriots like Arnold, Krncevic and Bozinoski, do not care about the future welfare of the game. These players are all quite keen to figure in the Socceroos' next World Cup campaign and will be making every effort to help out Eddie Thomson with his preparations.

Thomson, indeed, is considering getting the European exiles together for training camps and even "B" internationals during the European season to help maintain their enthusiasm. An offshore Socceroo team would certainly give the home-based XI a good shake.

What about this, for instance, as a European-based Australian team: Kearton, Bozinoski, Spyridakos, Okon, Kalantzis, Slater, Patikas, Kindtner, Vidmar, Arnold, Farina. Not a bad side in anyone's language. And it will only be strengthened as the exodus continues. Who knows, our future home games may be played in places like Brussels, Rome and London!





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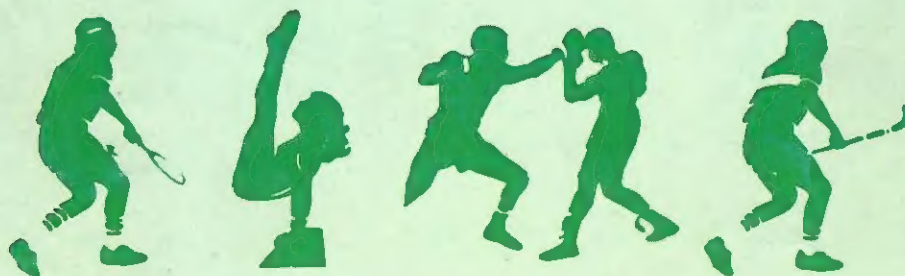
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